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INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 5 SAIGON 14503

USIA FOR IBS/NCA
CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGSWC PINT PINS MIL VS
SUBJ: VIETNAM CEASE-FIRE WEEKLY ASSESSMENT NOV 13-19, 74

PARTI--SUMMARY

A. THE OVERALL INCIDENT LEVEL WAS SOMEWHAT HIGHER, BUT GNV CASUALTIES WERE COMPARABLE TO A WEEK AGO. THE NUMBER OF NVA/VC KILLED, ON THE OTHER HAND, WAS CONSIDERABLY HIGHER. BECAUSE OF SEVERE WEATHER CONSTRAINTS MR-1 WAS MARKEDLY LESS ACTIVE. THE PRINCIPAL ACTION BEING ARVN'S DOGGED PURSUIT OF THE STRATEGIC MO TAU MOUNTAIN AREA WHICH CONTINUES IN SPITE OF THE WEATHER. THE

OTHER MILITARY REGIONS, HOWEVER, SHOWED A SIGNIFICANT UPTURN IN ACTIVITY. IN THE BIG FIGHTING IN MR-2, ARVN FORCES AGAIN SUCCESSFULLY RESISTED STRONG COMMUNIST EFFORTS TO PUCH THEM OUT OF THE STRATEGIC POSITION COMMANDING THE AN LAO VALLEY. SEVERAL ARVN INITIATIVES IN MR-3 MET WITH CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS. THERE WAS A SHIFT IN EMPHASIS IN THE DELTA, WITH THE GREATEST NUMBER OF INCIDENTS OCCURRING IN THE NORTHERN AREA.

B. ACTIVITY IN MR-1 WAS APPRECIABLY LOWER, DUE IN LARGE PART TO INCLEMENT WEATHER WHICH HAD A DAMPENING INFLUENCE THROUGHOUT THE REGION. NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS, QUANG TRI WAS ESSENTIALLY QUIET, BUT THE FIGHTING IN THE MO TAU AND NUI BONG MOUNTAIN AREAS CONTINUED, WITH RVNAF STILL NOT ABLE TO REGAIN CONTROL OF THESE STRATEGIC SITES. GVN AIRBORNE UNITS CONTINUE TO HOLD THE AREA NORTHWEST OF HILL 52 IN QUANG NAM. THE HEAVIEST ACTIVITY SOUTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS OCCURRED IN THE BINH SON AREA OF QUANG NGAI. ONE ASPECT OF THIS WAS A SAPPER ATTEMPT NOVEMBER 18 TO BLOW UP THE BINH SON BRIDGE, WHICH WAS THWARTED.

C. THE NVA/VC PRESSED PARTICULARLY STRONG ATTACKS IN BINH DINH PROVINCE IN THEIR CONTINUING EFFORTS TO UNSEAT ARVN FROM THE AN LAO VALLEY HIGH GROUND. THE ARVN DEFENDERS RECEIVED 600 ROUNDS
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OF MORTAR AND RECOILLESS RIFLE FIRE PRECEDING A GROUND ATTACK; HOWEVER, THE COMMUNISTS WERE AGAIN UNSUCCESSFUL.
ARVN ARTILLERY
DESTROYED 1,000 ROUNDS OF NVA MORTAR AMMUNITION IN THE BATTLE, AND COMMUNIST CASUALTIES WERE HEAVY. BINH DINH ALSO REPELLED NVA SAPPER ATTACKS AGAINST TERRITORIAL FORCES DEFENDING QL 19 WEST OF BINH KHE, BUT THE 42ND ARVN REGIMENT SUPPORTED THE LOCAL FORCES AND PRETTY WELL REMOVED THE THREAT TO THE ROAD. THE COMMUN-

IST EFFORT IN PLEIKU PROVINCE FOCUSSED ON LOCS, AND WAS MAINLY DIRECTED AGAINST QL 19 EAST OF PLEIKU CITY AND QL 14 SOUTH OF THE CITY. THERE WERE FEW CONTACTS IN KNTUM, BUT NVA ENGINEERS CONTINUED TO IMPROVE AND EXTEND COMMUNIST LOCS. JGS INTELLIGENCE EXPECTS A COMMUNIST ATTACK AGAINST KONTUM CITY WITHIN THE NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS. IN LIGHT OF THAT, CORPS IS PLANNING UNIT MOVES TO PROVIDE DEFENSE FOR THE CITY.

D. MAINLY AS A RESULT OF ARVN INITIATIVES THERE WAS AN INCREASE IN THE LEVEL OF ACTIVITY IN MR-3. THE PRINCIPAL ARVN AIM WAS TO ROLL BACK SOME OF NVA/VC INCURSIONS DURING THEIR SUMMER/AUTUMN CAMPAIGN IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN THE ARVN POSITION IN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 5 SAIGON 14503

USIA FOR IBS/NCA
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THE SAIGON RIVE
CORRIDOR NORTHWEST OF THE CAPITAL CITY. AGAIN THIS
WEEK THE COMMUNISTS ENGAGED IN SAPPER ACTIVITY IN THE AREA AROUND
SAIGON, WITH GIA DINH PROVINCE CONTINUING TO BE THE FOCUS OF THAT
EFFORT. MININGS THROUGHOUT MR-3 WERE APPRECIABLY HIGHER, AND
LED TO A NUMBER OF CIVILIAN CASUALTIES. ALTHOUGH BINH DUONG WAS
AGAIN THE MOST ACTIVE PROVINCE, INCIDENTS IN HAU NGHIA WERE
MARKEDLY HIGHER THIFDWEK. BOLD BINH DUONG RF TROOPS SCORED A
CONEMDERABLE SUCCESS IN AN ATTACK ON NVA FORCES ON THE EDGE OF THE
MICHELIN PLANTATION. THE HOA AN BRIDGE AT BIEN HOA, TWO SECTIONS
OF WHICH WERE BLOWN LAST MONTH, WAS AGAIN THE OBJECT OF A PROBABLE
SAPPER ATTACK -- THIS TIME UNSUCCESSFUL. ROUTE 20 TO DALAT WAS
THE OBJECT OF COMMUNIST ATTENTION IN LONG KHANH PROVINCE.

E. THE INCIDENT LEVEL WAS SOMEWHAT HIGHER IN THE DELTA THIS WEEK,
BUT PHASED DOWN SOMEWHAT AS THE PERIOD ENDED. THE NORTHERN
DELTA WAS MORE ACTIVE THAN OTHER AREAS. TWO DISTRICT TOWNS
CAME UNDER HEAVY SHELLING IN DINH TUONG IN THE NORTHERN DELTA,
BUT THE MOST ACTIVE AREA WAS THREE EASTERN DISTRICTS IN THAT PRO-
VINCE WHICH HAD BEEN FAIRLY QUIET SINCE THE CEASEFIRE. SEVERAL
GVN POSITIONS IN KIEN PHONG PROVINCE WERE OVERRUN EARLY IN THE
WEEK, BUT LATER RETAKEN. THE CUNG CANAL IN KIEN BINH DISTRICT
OF KIEN TUONG PROVINCE CAME UNDER NVA/VC ATTACK DURING THE
PERIOD AT A TIME WHEN ARVN FORCES WERE BEING RELOCATED. IN THE
CENTRAL DELTA KIEN HOA ZQS THE SUBJECT OF MINING AND BOOBY TRAP
INCIDENTS, BUT OTHERWISE QUIET. HIGH ACTIVITY IN VINH LONG PRO-
VINCE DIMINISHED TOWARDS THE END OF THE WEEK. IN ONE INCIDENT
THERE A VILLAGE MARKET EXPLOSION WOUNDED 15 CIVILIANS. IN RECENT
MONTHS THE VC/NVA HAS CONSIDERABLY INCREASED ITS EFFORT AGAINST
DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AND ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE PROVINCES
OF KIEN GIANG AND DINH TUONG. IN THE SOUTH, VC/NVA ACTIVITY

FOCUSSED ON MAJOR LOCS IN BAC LIEU, AND ALL MAJOR WATERWAYS WERE UNSAFE FOR TRAVEL EXCEPT THE BAC LIEU-CA MAO GRAND CANAL PARALLELING HIGHWAY 4. ACTIVITY IN AN XUYEN PICKED UP CONSIDERABLY WITH FIRE ATTACKS A FEATURE IN MOST INCIDENTS.

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PART II--FPJMT, TPJMC AND RELATED MATTER YV

THE DRV/"PRG" BOYCOTT OF THE FPJMT AND TPJMC CONTINUED INTO ITS TWENTY-SECOND WEEK.

PART III--MR-1

1. SEUCRITY SITUATION:

I CORPS HQS BRIEFED 155 CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS THIS WEEK, A SUBSTANTIAL DECREASE FROM LAST WEEK'S 273. FIGHTING CONTINUED AT A LOW LEVEL IN THUA THIEN (P), QUANG NAM (P), AND QUANG NGAI (P). THERE HAS BEEN NO SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY IN QUANG TRI (P) AND QUANG TIN (P). GVN CASUALTIES: 98 KIA; 315 WIA; 10 MIA. VC/NVA LOSSES WERE: 212 KIA; 5 CAPTURED; AND 2 RETURNEES. VNAF FLEW ONLY 12 COMBAT AIR SORTIES. HEAVY RAIN AND OVERCAST SKIES HAVE SEVERELY LIMITED AIR OPERATIONS. FLOOD CONDITIONS HAVE TEMPORARILY HAMPERED MILITARY GROUND OPERATIONS, TROOP MOVEMENTS, AND SUPPLY. THROUGHTOUT MR-1, DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD STREAMS HAVE SPILLED OVER THEIR BANKS WASHING OUT CULVERTS, FLOODING ROADS AND LOWLAND AREAS, AND NECESSITATING THE TEMPORARY REMOVAL OF FLOATING BRIDGES TO PREVENT DAMAGE. AS OF NOV 19TH, ENGINEER UNITS HAVE REPAIRED ALL DAMAGED CULVERTS, THE FLOATING BRIDGES HAVE BEEN REPLACED, AND NORMAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC HAS RESUMED.

2. NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS:

IN QUANG TRI (P) THERE WAS NO SIGNIFICANT MILITARY ACTIVITY. IN THUA THIEN (P), IN SPITE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER, BOTH ABF'S AND GROUND ATTACKS CONTINUED AT A MODERATE LEVEL IN THE MO TAU AND NUI BONG MOUNTAIN AREAS AS GVN FORCES CONTINUED TO ATTEMPT TO REGAIN CONTROL OF THESE STRATEGIC SITES AND VC/NVA TROOPS CONTINUED THEIR RESISTANCE. ON NOV 15, IN THUA THIEN (P), FIVE CHILDREN WERE KILLED WHEN THEY ACTIVATED A VC/NVA MINE.

3. SOUTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS:

IN QUANG NAM (P) FIGHTING WAS AT A MODERATE LEVEL, FOCUSSED MAINLY IN THE AREA NORTHWEST OF HILL 52 WHERE VC/NVA ARE ATTEMPTING TO DISLODGE GVN AIRBORNE UNITS. THERE WERE LIGHT GROUND ATTACKS AGAINST GVN RANGER UNITS SOUTHEAST OF DUC DUC. ON NOV 12, THE

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VC SHELLED 7 ROUNDS OF 61 MM MORTAR INTO A POPULATED AREA 1.5KM NORTHWEST OF TAY SON BASE, KILLING ONE CIVILIAN. ON NOV 13, SAPPERS DESTROYED A CULVERT 2 KM NORTHWEST OF HAI VAN PASS BUT REPAIRS WERE MADE AND TRAFFIC RESUMED WITHIN EIGHT HOURS.

NO SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY WAS REPORTED IN QUANG TIN (P). IN QUANG NGAI (P), VC/NVA-INITIATED ACTIONS HAVE OCCURRED IN EASTERN BINH SON (D), SON TINH (D), AND DUC PHO (D). THE HEAVIEST ACTIVITY INVOLVED ABF'S, GROUND ATTACKS, AND AMBUSHES ON REGIONAL FORCE UNITS IN THE BINHNON AREA. ON NOV 15, VC/NVA FIRED 6 ROUNDS OF 82MM MORTAR INTO A POPULATED AREA NEAR BINH SON RESULTING IN THE WOUNDING OF FOUR CIVILIANS. ON NOV 18, THE VC FIRED SMALL ARMS INTO A POPULATED AREA 6 KM NORTHWEST OF SON TINH, RESULTING IN ONE CIVILIAN KILLED. ON NOV 16, A PF PLATOON GUARDING THE LO BO BRIDGE KILLED TWO FROGMEN AND CAPTURED 50 KILOS OF EXPLOSIVES. ON NOV 18, A PF PLATOON GUARDING THE BINH SON BRIDGE KILLED ONE VC FROGMAN AND CAPTURED 100 KILOS OF TNT.

4. ICCS:

IN ICCS REGION I THE INDONESIANS AND IRANIANS CONDUCTED AN OBSERVATION NOV 13 OF THE SITE OF A NOV 12TH NVA/VC ATTACK ON AN AMMUNITION DEPOT. IN REGION II, THE INDONESIANS AND IRANIANS CONDUCTED THREE OBSERVATIONS DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD. ON NOV 12TH, DELEGATES BASED AT CHU LAI OBSERVED THE SITE OF THE SHELLING THAT DATE OF SON TINH DISTRICT CAPITAL IN WHICH SEVEN CIVILIANS WERE WOUNDED. ON NOV 13TH, THEY VISITED A SITE ON CHU LAI BASE WHICH HAD BEEN SHELLED ON NOV 12TH. INDONESIANS AND IRANIANS FROM TAM KY ON NOV 15TH OBSERVED A CULVERT IN LY TIN DISTRICT WHICH HAD BEEN SABOTAGED THE DAY BEFORE.

IN HOI AN, THE ICCS TEAM WED PRESENTED WITH A PETITION ON NOV 14 BY A GROUP OF CITIZENS, LARGELY STUDENTS, FOLLOWING A PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION PROTESTING A NOV 2ND MINING OF A COMMERCIAL BUS WHICH TOOK 19 LIVES, INCLUDING 18 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS.

POLISH GENERAL DEGA TOURED ICCS REGIO G I AND II DURING THE PAST WEEK. HE VISITED ALL TEAM SITES EXCEPT PHU BAI, WHICH THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS HAVE NOT OCCUPIED SINCE JUNE, AND DID EXTENSIVE SIGHTSEEING.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 3 OF 5 SAIGON 14503

USIA FOR IBS/NCA
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PART IV -- MR-2

1. SUMMARY: REPORTED COMMUNIST AND GOVERNMENT CASUALTIES MORE THAN DOUBLED THIS WEEK AS COMMUNISTS IN BINH DINH CONTINUED THEIR EFFORTS TO EXPEL 22ND DIVISION FORCES FROM THE AN LAO AND MADE A COORDINATED ASSAULT ON TERRITORIAL UNITS DEFENDING QL-19 WEST OF BINH KHE. ARVN FORCES IN KONTUM ARE ADOPTING A MORE AGGRESSIVELY ORIENTED STRATEGY UNDER A NEW COMMANDER IN AN ATTEMPT TO KEEP THE NVA AROUND KONTUM CITY OFF BALANCE. RALLIER REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE COMMUNISTS HAVE INTRODUCED NEW TROOPS AND REORGANIZED TRADITIONAL VC AND NVA AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY IN DARLAC WITH THE INTENTION OF ATTACKING BAN DON DISTRICT TOWN IN COORDINATION WITH AN ATTACK ON DUC LAP DISTRICT CAPITAL IN QUANG DUC. A SAPPER ATTACK ON THE DA NHIM HYDRO-ELECTRIC PLANT'S PENSTOCK IN NINH THUAN PROVINCE FAILED TO DISRUPT THE TRANSMISSION OF POWER. MR-II HQS REPORTS 278 VC/NVA KIA AND 92 WEAPONS CAPTURED WHILE GOVERNMENT FORCES LOST 58 KIA AND 61 WEAPONS. ARTILLERY EXPENDITURES INCREASED TO 10,139 ROUNDS COMPARED WITH 4,651 LAST WEEK. TAC AIR AND AERIAL RECON INCREASED TO 161 AND 145 SORTIES FLOWN, RESPECTIVELY, UP FROM 126 AND 101 THE PREVIOUS WEEK. HELICOPTER SORTIES INCREASED TO 768 FROM 510.

2. BINH DINH: MILITARY ACTIVITY PICKED UP THIS WEEK. COMMUNIST FORCES STRUCK AT THE ARVN 41ST REGT HOLDING THE MOUTH OF THE AN LAO VALLEY; CONDUCTED A SERIES OF SHELLINGS AGAINST GOVERNMENT TROOP POSITIONS IN THE NORTHERN DISTRICTS OF TAM QUAN, HOAI NHON, AND HOAI AN; AND ATTEMPTED TO INTERDICT QL-19. ON NOV 11, THE 2ND BN OF THE 41ST ARVN REGT SITUATED IN THE AN LAO RECEIVED 600 ROUNDS OF MORTAR AND RECOILLESS RIFLE FIRE FOLLOWED BY A GROUND ASSAULT DURING WHICH, REPORTEDLY, 47 NVA WERE KIA, 6 WEAPONS WERE CAPTURED, AND 1,000 ROUNDS OF NVA MORTAR AMMUNITION WERE DESTROYED BY ARVN ARTILLERY FIRE. BINH KHE DISTRICT TOWN TOOK 7 ROUNDS OF 82MM MORTAR ON NOV 12 CAUSING THE DEATH OF 4 CIVILIANS, AND WOUNDING 22 OTHERS. ON THE SAME DAY, THE 19TH NVA SAPPER BATTALION ALONG WITH THE 52ND VC LOCAL FORCE BN

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ATTACKED TERRITORIAL FORCES DEFENDING QL-19 WEST OF BINH KHE AND DESTROYED A CULVERT. THE 42ND ARVN REGT REACTED AND HAS ESSENTIALLY ELIMINATED THE THREAT TO THE LOC ALTHOUGH SPORADIC CONTACTS ARE STILL REPORTED. THE 2ND NVA REGT SUPPORTED BY LOCAL

FORCES IS HOLDING ITS GROUND IN NORTHERN PHU MY IN AN ATTEMPT TO CONTAIN THE ARVN 47TH REGT'S PUSH NORTHWARD.

3. PLEIKU: THE COMMUNISTS DIRECTED A SERIES OF ATTACKS THIS WEEK AGAINST QL-19 EAST OF PLEIKU AND QL-14 SOUTH OF THE CITY. GVN STATIC DEFENSIVE POSITIONS AT THANH AN, FSB LE NGOC, MY-THACH, AND FSB 333 RECEIVED SPORADIC INDIRECT FIRE. CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORTS THAT ELEMENTS OF THE 9TH REGT OF THE 320TH NVA DIV REMAIN IN PROXIMITY TO ARVN FORCES OPERATING SOUTH OF BAO DUC, ONE KM SE OF PLEI MNONG. THE 48TH AND 64TH NVA REGTS HAVE RECEIVED ORDERS TO PREPARE PLANS FOR UPCOMING OPERATIONS WHILE THE 26TH NVA REGT IS EXPECTED TO EXERT CONTINUED PRESSURE AGAINST GVN POSITIONS ALONG TL-509.

4. KONTUM: ONLY 12 CONTACTS BETWEEN COMMUNIST AND GOVERNMENT FORCES WERE REPORTED THIS WEEK. NVA ENGINEERS CONTINUE TO IMPROVE AND EXTEND THEIR LOC'S. AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE DETECTED BULLDOZERS AND LABORERS WORKING ON A ROUTE 20 KM SW OF BEN HET. INTELLIGENCE PROVIDED BY JGS PREDICTS ATTACKS DIRECTED AGAINST KONTUM CITY IN LATE NOV OR EARLY DEC. II CORPS PLANS TO CONSOLIDATE THE DEFENSE OF KONTUM CITY UNDER A RANGER COMMAND CONSISTING OF THE 21ST, 22ND, AND 23RD RANGER GROUPS AS SOON AS THE REGIONAL SITUATION PERMITS. ARVN UNITS IN KONTUM HAVE RECEIVED ORDERS FROM THEIR NEW COMMANDER, COLONEL TAT (II CORPS RANGER COMMANDER), TO ADOPT A MORE AGGRESSIVE OPERATIONAL POSTURE.

5. DARLAC: INFORMATION FROM TWO RALLIERS INDICATES THAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE HAVE ORGANIZED THEIR FORCES IN DARLAC INTO A "DIVISION-SIZED" ELEMENT. AN UNDERSTRENGTH INFANTRY REGIMENT HAS BEEN BROUGHT UP TO FULL SIZE AND ATTACHED TO ENGINEERING AND ANTI-AIRCRAFT UNITS OF THE 470TH GROUP. A NEW SAPPER REGIMENT (UNCONFIRMED) HAS ALSO BEEN ADDED TO THIS FORCE ACCORDING TO THESE SOURCES. THESE REPORTS FURTHER INDICATE THAT THE COMMUNISTS HAVE REALIGNED TRADITIONAL AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR DARLAC, ASSIGNING THE AREA NORTH OF QL-21 TO THE NVA AND THE SOUTHERN QUADRANT TO VC PROVINCIAL FORCES. THE VC DISTRICT WHICH INCLUDES
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BAN ME THUOT HAS BEEN REDUCED IN SIZE, GIVING A MORE DEFINITE FOCUS TO COMMUNIST UNITS OPERATING THERE. THE RALLIERS CLAIM THAT BAN DONG DISTRICT TOWN WILL BE THE PRIMARY TARGET OF AN OFFENSIVE WHICH WILL OCCUR SOMETIME BEFORE TET. AN ATTACK ON BAN ME THUOT WILL FOLLOW ONLY IF THE PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE IS SECURED.

6. OTHER: THE KHANH HOA PROVINCE CHIEF HAS REORGANIZED TWO RF BATTALIONS INTO A MOBILE REGIMENT TO BE DESIGNATED THE 922ND. THE TRA LONG BRIDGE ON QL-1, ONE KM NORTH OF CAM RANH CITY, WAS ATTACKED BY COMMUNIST SAPPERS AND 20 PERCENT DESTROYED. COMMUNIST RICE COLLECTION EFFORTS IN PHU YEN HAVE FALLEN

BELOW THEIR EXPECTATIONS; ONLY ONE-FIFTH OF VC/NVA CONSUMPTION REQUIREMENTS WERE SECURED. SECTOR'S DEPLOYMENT OF RF UNITS AROUND MAIN RICE-PRODUCING AREAS PREVENTED ITS EXPROPRIATION. A 112-VEHICLE CONVOY TRAVELING FROM QUI NHON TO CAM RANH WAS AMBUSHED 9 KM NW OF TUY AN AND SUSTAINED DAMAGE TO TWO TRUCKS. ON NOV 13, A VC SAPPER TEAM INFILTRATED THE DEFENSES OF DA NHIM HYDRO-ELECTRIC PLANT IN NINH THUAN PROVINCE AND CUT WITH AN EXPLOSIVE CHARGE ONE OF THE TWO PENSTOCKS THROUGH WHICH WATER IS TRANSMITTED TO THE PLANT. NO REDUCTION IN POWER OUTPUT OCCURRED SINCE THE OTHER LINE REMAINED FULLY OPERATIONAL. TUYEN DUC SECTOR FORCES PENETRATED INTO THE REAR HQS OF THE COMMUNIST PROVINCIAL UNIT AND REPORTEDLY KILLED THE COMMANDER AS WELL AND THE CHIEF OF MEDICAL SERVICES. ALL OF THE COMMUNIST CASUALTIES WERE DETERMINED TO BE NORTH VIETNAMESE. QL-14 IN DUC LAP DISTRICT OF QUANG DUC PROVINCE WAS MINED ON TWO OCCASIONS.

7. ICCS: THE IRANIAN AND INDONESIAN DELEGATIONS ASSIGNED TO PHAN RANG, NINH THUAN PROVINCE, CONDUCTED AN OBSERVATION OF DAMAGE SUSTAINED BY THE DA NHIM HYDRO-ELECTRIC PLANT DURING A NOV 13 VC SAPPER ATTACK. THE IRANIANS COMPLAINED OF THE LACK OF ADEQUATE SECURITY ARRANGEMENT PROVIDED DURING THE INVESTIGATION. ON NOV 12, THE IRANIAN AND INDONESIAN DELEGATIONS IN NINH HOA, KHANH HOA PROVINCE, ACCOMPANIED BY IRANIAN AND INDONESIAN OBSERVERS FROM THE NHA TRANG TEAMSITE, CONDUCTED AN INVESTIGATION IN DIEN DIEN NAMLET, DIEN KHANH DISTRICT, WHICH WAS ATTACKED RECENTLY BY A COMMUNIST FORCE. A JOINT REPORT WAS PREPARED AND SIGNED BY BOTH DELEGATIONS.

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USIA FOR IBS/NCA
CINCPAC FOR POLAD

PART V -- MR-3

1. THERE WAS SOME INCREASE IN MILITARY ACTIVITY IN MR-3 DURING THE PAST WEEK AS ARVN UNDERTOOK OPERATIONS IN THE IRON TRIANGLE AND PHU HOA AREAS OF BINH DUONG PROVINCE TO RECOVER AREAS OCCUPIED BY THE NVA/VC DURING THE SUMMER-AUTUMN CAMPAIGN AND TO STRENGTHEN ITS POSITION IN THE SAIGON RIVER CORRIDOR NORTHWEST OF SAIGON. SAPPER ACTIVITY IN THE ENVIRONS OF SAIGON CONTINUES.

2. HEAVIER FIGHTING IN BINH DUONG INCREASED TOTAL MILITARY INCIDENTS TO 191 THIS WEEK COMPARED WITH 145 LAST REPORTING PERIOD. MR-3 HQS

REPORTED 64 GROUND CONTACTS (38 LAST WEEK), 52 ATTACKS BY FIRE (42 LAST WEEK), AND FIVE COMBINED GROUND AND ABFS. THERE WERE 31 MINING INCIDENTS AND 39 OTHER MISCELLANEOUS INCIDENTS. BINH DUONG WAS HIGHEST WITH 68 INCIDENTS (36 LAST WEEK), WHILE BIEN HOA HAD 21 AND HAU NGHIA 22.

3. MORE ARTILLERY FIRED BY BOTH SIDES. THE NVA/VC FIRED 938 ROUNDS OF ARTILLERY AND MORTAR COMPARED WITH 443 LAST WEEK. OWING MAINLY TO ARVN OPERATIONS IN BINH DUONG, GVN FORCES INCREASED ARTILLERY ROUNDS FIRED TO 8,943 COMPARED WITH 2,781 DURING THE LAST PERIOD. VNAF 3RD AIR DIV FLEW 196 FIXED-WING COMBAT SORTIES (157 THE WEEK BEFORE) AND 220 HELICOPTER GUNSHIPS SORTIES (131 THE PREVIOUS WEEK). IN TAY NINH, ON THE MORNING OF NOVEMBER 17, A UH-1 HELICOPTER WAS HIT BY B-40 ROCKET WHILE LANDING AT NUI BA DEN (BLACK LADY MOUNTAIN XT 282582). THERE WAS MINOR DAMAGE TO THE TAIL SECTION BUT NO CASUALTIES.

4. GVN CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED AS 46 KIA, 225 WIA, AND 17 MIA WHILE NVA/VC LOSSES WERE 87 KIA, 8 CIA, AND 9 RALLIERS. ADDITIONALLY, CONFIDENTIAL

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VNAF REPORTED 184 NVA/VC KILLED BY AIR.

5. ONE OF THE MOST DRAMATIC INCIDENTS OF THE WEEK INVOLVED THE DISCOVERY OF TIME-FUSED ANTI-TANK GRENADES OF CHICOM MANUFACTURE ATTACHED TO THE TAIL SECTIONS OF FIVE F5E AIRCRAFT AT BIEN HOA AIR BASE ON THE NIGHT OF NOV 16. ALERT VNAF PERSONNEL WHO SIGHTED THE EXPLOSIVE CHARGES ALSO REMOVED THEM BEFORE THEY BLEW WITH NO DAMAGE TO THE PLANES. A VNAF MECHANIC TAKEN INTO CUSTODY AFTER HIS TOOL KIT WAS FOUND IN HIGH GRASS NEAR THE SCENE, HAS CONFESSED TO THE ATTEMPT DECLARING THAT HE ACTED ALONE INTIMIDATED BY VC THREATS TO HIS FAMILY.

6. ACTIVITY IN HAU NGHIA PROVINCE ROSE SHARPLY, MOSTLY IN THE FORM OF SMALL SIZED GROUND CONTACTS. ON NOVEMBER 11-12, COMMUNIST FORCES OF UNKNOWN SIZE ATTACKED TWO OUTPOSTS EIGHT TO TEN KMS NORTHWEST OF CU CHI WITH COMBINED CASUALTIES OF SEVEN KILLED, SIX WOUNDED, 13 MISSING AND 20 WEAPONS LOST, WITH COMMUNIST LOSSES UNKNOWN. ON NOVEMBER 16 AND 18, TRUNG LAP BASE (25TH DIV), RECEIVED TWO ATTACKS BY FIRE TOTALING 32 ROUNDS OF 82MM MORTAR, WHICH LEFT ONE FRIENDLY KILLED AND TWO WOUNDED. A TERRORIST INCIDENT ON NOVEMBER 12 OCCURRED SEVEN KMS NORTHEAST OF TRANG BANG DISTRICT WHEN TWO CIVILIANS ON A MOTORCYCLE WERE WOUNDED BY COMMUNIST SNIPERS.

7. IN BIEN HOA PROVINCE, A RANGER AMMUNITION STORAGE AREA AT LONG BINH WAS BLOWN IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF NOV 14 WITH LOSS

OF A SUBSTANTIAL QUANTITY OF MORTAR, SMALL ARMS, AND M-72 LAW AMMUNITION. SAPPER PENETRATION IS SUSPECTED. ON NOVEMBER 14 SECURITY FORCES GUARDING THE HOA AN BRIDGE AT BIEN HOA, WHICH HAD TWO SECTIONS BLOWN LAST MONTH BY SAPPERS, SPOTTED THREE MEN IN THE WATER THOUGHT TO BE ENEMY SAPPERS. THEY WERE FIRED UPON BUT MANAGED TO ESCAPE.

8. FOR THE THIRD STRAIGHT WEEK ENEMY SAPPERS WERE ACTIVE IN GIA DINH PROVINCE. ON NOVEMBER 13 A PSDF GUARD STATION THREE KMS SOUTH-WEST OF TAN SON NHUT AIRBASE WAS DESTROYED WHEN COMMUNIST SAPPERS THREW A CHARGE INTO THE STATIOO AT 2300 HOURS. NO PERSONNEL LOSSES WERE REPORTED. ON NOVEMBER 16, NINE KMS SOUTHWEST OF SAIGON, VC
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SAPPERS BLEW UP FOUR ELECTRICAL POWER POLES WHICH TEMPORARILY DISRUPTED LOCAL POWER. THERE WERE THREE OTHER SAPPER INCIDENTS OG LESSER SIGNIFICANCE DURING THE WEEK.

9. IN LONG KHANH PROVINCE COMMUNIST FORCES CONTINUED THEIR CONCENTRATION OF ACTIVITY OO AND NEAR ROUTE 2, TO DALAT. ON NOVEMBER 14 BEFORE DAYBREAK TWO KMS SOUTHWEST OF DINH QUAN DISTRICT, A ROADBLOCK WAS ERECTED WHICH WAS CLEARED BY TERRITORIAL FORCES WITHIN A FEW HOURS. ON NOVEMBER 16, TEN KMS NORTHEAST OF KIEM TAN, A ROAD SECURITY COOPANY OPERATING A TNG QL 20 MADE CONTACT WITH AN UNKNOWN SIZE ENEMY FORCE. CASUALTIES WERE ONE ARVN KILLED AND ONE WOUNDED, NVA/VC UNKNOWN. THREE PSDF WERE WOUNDED AND THE HAMLET OFFICE DESTROYED. ON NOVEMBER 19 AT 0255 AN UNKNOWN SIZE COMMUNIST FORCE, IN A COMBINED GROUND ATTACK AND ABF AGAINST THE 377TH RF COMPANY LOCATED TWO KMS NORTHWEST OF DINH QUAN DISTRICT, INFLECTED CASUALTIES ON THE TERRITORIAL FORCES WHICH AMOUNTED TO ONE KIA AND FIVE WIA WITH TWO ENEMY KIA AOD ASSORTED WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION CAPTURED. AT THE SAME TIME, COMMUNIST FORCES SHELLD DINH QUAN SUBSECTOR WHICH RESULTED IN ONE CIVILIAN KIA, 13 CIVILIANS WIA, AND EIGHT NATIONAL WIA.

10. AMONG INCIDENTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST WAS A B-40 ATTACK AT 2000

HOURS ON A CIVILIAN JEEP TRAVELING IN PHUOC TUY PROVINCE ON QL-15, THE MAIN ROAD TO VUNG TAU, IN WHICH TWO CIVILIANS WERE WOUNDED. IN TAY NINH PROVINCE, COMMUNIST FORCES SHELLD FRIENDLY TROOPS AT THE COMMUNICATIONS STATION ATOP BLACK LADY MOUNTAIN WITH 375&.. ROUNDS OF 82MM MORTAR RESULTING IN ONLY MINOR CASUALTIES.DERTH-EAST OF THE MOUNTAIN 2 KMS, AN ARVNHC VK-RANGE RECON PITROL MADE CONTACT WITH AN UNKNOWN SIZE COMMUNIST FORCE DURING WHICHWO CIVILIANS WERE KILLED AND SIX WOUNDED IN THE CROSSFIRE. IN LONG KHANH PROVINCEPN SAPPERS ATTACKED A AMLET OFFICE 10 KMS WEST OF THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL, XUAN LOC, DESTROYING THE OFFICE AND WOUNDING

THREE PSDF. IN THI TAM DISTRICT OF BINH DUONG PROVINCE RF TROOPS
BOLDLY ATTACKED TWO 9TH NVA DIV POSITIONS IN THE EDGE OF MICHELIN
PLANTATION DESTROYING THE POSITIONS, INCLUDING A LARGE STORAGE
AREA AND KILLING SIX NVA WHILE SUFFERING ONLY THREE WOUNDED.

11. MININGS THROUGHOUT MR-3 INCREASED OVER 50 PERCENT WITH 31
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INCIDENTS WHICH RESULTED IN 13 KIA AND 44 WIA. THE MOST SIGNI-
FICANT OCCURRED ON NOVEMBER 12 IN PHUOC TUY PROVINCE, WHEN A
TEAM OF CIVILIANS FROM THE PROVINCIAL LAND SERVICE ACTIVATED
A MINE WHILE SURVEYING LAND FOUR KMS SOUTHEAST OF LONG DIEN WITH
ONE KILLED AND SIX WOUNDED.

12. ICCS: NONE OF THE ICCS TEAMS IN ICCS REGION V CONDUCTED ANY
OBSERVATIONS DURING THIS REPORTING PERIOD.

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-06 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

RSC-01 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 DODE-00 IO-10

AID-05 /076 W
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R 200945Z NOV 74
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 438
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
AMCONSUL CAN THO
AMCONSUL DANANG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USDEL JEC PARIS
USIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI
CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI
CG FMFPAC
CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB
CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER
COMUSMACTHAI
USDAO SAIGON
USDEL FPJMT SAIGON
AMEOKASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USLO PEKING

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USIA FOR IBS/NCA
CINCPAC FOR POLAD

PART VI -- MR-4

1. MILITARY SITUATION: (A) OVERALL SECURITY: DELTA MILITARY ACTIVITY REMAINED HIGH THIS WEEK, BUT BEGAN TO SLACKEN NEAR THE END OF THE PERIOD. FIGHTING THIS WEEK SHIFTED FROM SOUTHERN AND CENTRAL DELTA TO DINH TUONG, KIEN PHONG AND KIEN TUONG PROVINCES. KIEN TUONG PROVINCE WAS SHIFTED TO 9TH DIVISION TAOR FREEING SOME 7TH DIVISION TROOPS FOR DINH TUONG AND VINH LONG. THE 9TH DIVISION IS THUS RESPONSIBLE FOR ENTIRE CAMBODIAN BORDER WITH MR-4. CORPS REPORTS 422 INCIDENTS (383 LAST WEEK), CONSISTING OF 69 GROUND ATTACKS (56), ONE INFILTRATION (ONE), 228 ABF'S (234), 102 HARASSMENTS (71), 13 SABOTAGE (15), AND 9 TERRORIST INCIDENTS (5). GVN LOSSES ARE REPORTED AS 159 KIA (183), 664 WIA (680), 339 MIA (91), AND 5 CREW-SERVED (5) AND 175 INDIVIDUAL (229) WEAPONS LOST. (COMMENT: AN MR-4 STAFF OFFICER TELLS US THAT SOME UNIT COMMANDERS HAVE BEEN CLEANING GHOST SOLDIERS FROM THEIR RECORDS IN THE WAKE OF CHANGE IN CORPS COMMANDER BY LISTING THEM AS KIA. GVN KIA STATISTICS FOR NOVEMBER, THEREFORE, MAY BE SLIGHTLY INFLATED. END COMMENT.) CORPS CLAIMS 552 VC/NVA KILLED (447), 66 PRISONERS AND SUSPECTS CAPTURED (20), AND 15 CREW-SERVED (17) AND 171 INDIVIDUAL (144) WEAPONS SEIZED.

(B) NORTHERN DELTA: ACTIVITY IN DINH TUONG PROVINCE WAS HEAVY

WITH TWO DISTRICT TOWNS HEAVILY SHELLED: GIAO DUC WAS SHELLED TWICE A TOTAL OF ALMOST 100 ROUNDS 82 MM MORTAR AND ROCKETS, AND HAO MY WAS SHELLED ONCE BY 40X107MM ROCKETS. MORT ACVE AHEA, HOWEVER, WAS THREE EASERO DISTRICTS OF PROVINCE WHICH HAVE BEEN RELATIVELY QUIET SINCE THE CEASEFIRE. ONE OB AND TWO WATCHTOWERS IN CHO GAO (D) AND THREE OB'S IN CHAU THANH (D) WERE OVERRUN OR ABANDONED UNDER PRESSURE. SEVERAL OUTPOSTS IN NORTHERN BEN TRANH (D) WERE UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE AND THE ROAD TO THAT AREA WAS CONSIDERED

INSECURE FOR MUCH OF THE PERIOD. AN EXPLOSION ON AN UNPAVED TEMPORARY BYPASS ON HIGHWAY 4 BLEW A LARGE HOLE IN THE ROAD SURFACE NEAR THE GIAO DUC (CAI BE DISTRICT BORDER EARLY THE MORNING OF NOVEMBER 19. AN ARVN ENGINEER UNIT REPAIRING THSIROAD SUBSEQUENTLY
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CAME UNDER MORTAR FIRE, AND TRAFFIC WAS NOT RESTORED UNTIL 1100 HOURS. ACTIVITY IN KIEN PHONG PROVINCE INCREASED SHARPLY WITH TWO PF OB'S IN CAO LANH (D) AND AN OB HEAD VILLAGE OFFICE IN DONG TIEU (D) OVERRUN. ALL POSITIONS HAVE SINCE BEEN RETAKEN. 12 OTHER GROUND ATTACKS WERE REPORTED, ALL AGAINST RF AND PF OB'S. IN KIEN TUONG PROVINCE, 7TH ARVN DIVISION TROOPS LEFT THIS WEEK WHEN THE SECTOR WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE 9TH DIVISION TAOR. UPON THEIR DEPARTURE, VC/NVA UNITS RENEWED THEIGAATTACKS ON GVN OB'S ALONG THE CUNG CANAL IN KIEN BINH (D). TWO OF THE OUTPOSTS WERE OVERRUN. A BATTALION OF THE 15TH REGIMENT, 9TH ARVN DIVISION HAS SINCE BEEN DEPLOYED TO THE AREA, SO FAR WITH MIXED RESULTS. CHAU DOC PROVINCE REPORTS ONE SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT, A PF PLATOON CONTACT IN THE NORTHERNMOST TIP OF AN PHU (D). 6 VC/NVA WERE KILLED AND SEVERAL WEAPONS CAPTURED WITH NO PF CASUALTIES.

(C) CENTRAL DELTA: KIEN HOA PROVINCE WAS FAIRLY QUIET WITH MINES

AND BOOBY TRAPS ACCOUNTING FOR MOST GVN MILITARY AND CIVILIAN CASUALTIES. OTHER ACTIVITY WAS LIMITED TO HARASSMENTS OF OUTLYING OB'S AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES. ACTIVITY IN VINH LONG PROVINCE REMAINED HIGH BUT APPEARED TO BE SLACKENING NEAR THE END OF THE PERIOD. 21ST ARVN DIVISION TROOPS ARE NOW IN BINH MINH (D) NEAR THE SA DEC BORDER WHILE 7TH ARVN DIVISION TROOPS CONTINUE TO OPERATE IN TAN BINH (D). A HAMLAK OFFICE IN CHAU THANH (D) AND AN OB IN TAM BINH WERE OVERRUN, AND TWO WATCHTOWERS IN BINH MINH (D) ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE ALSO BEEN OVERRUN. VINH BINH PROVINCE REPORTS THE LOSS OF LONG VINH (V), LONG TOAN (D) FOR THE SECOND TIME IN A MONTH. AN OPERATION IS UNDERWAY TO RETAKE THE VILLAGE. ELSEWHERE IN THE PROVINCE, AN EXPLOSION IN A VILLAGE MARKET IN CAU KE (D) WOUNDED 15 CIVILIANS. PHONG DINH PROVINCE WAS MUCH QUIETER, BUT PHONG THUA DISTRICT TOWN WAS SHELLED AGAIN WITH 2 CIVILIANS KILLED AND 3 WOUNDED. ACTIVITY IN KIEN GIANG PROVINCE SHIFTED SOUTH WITH ABF'S AND PRESSURE ON GVN POSITIONS ALONG THE ENTIRE LENGTH OF THE CAN GAO CANAL. KIEN BINH (D) REPORTS

MORE ABF'S ON FOUGYOF ITS VILLAGE HQ'S AND THE DISTRICT TOWN,
AND IN KIEN TAN (D), SAPPERS SANK ANOTHER DREDGE (THE THIRD) AND
DESTROYED TWO LARGE IRRIGATION PUMPS. VC/NVA TARGETING OF GVN
DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AND ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE HAS BECOME MUCH MORE
PROMINENT IN BOTH KIEN GIANG AND DINH TUONG IN RECENT MONTHS.

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(D) SOUTHERN DELTA: LIGHT ACTIVITY IN BA XUYEN PROVINCE WAS
CONCENTRATED IN NORTHEAST KE SACH (D) AND NGA NAM (D) NEAR THE
CHUONG THIEN BORDER. ONE OXRWAS OVERRUN IN THE LATTER. IN ADDITION,
VC STOPPED BUSSES BETWEEN LONG PHU DISTRICT TOWN AND THE PROVINCE
CAPITAL TO PROPAGANDIZE PASSENGERS, THEN AMBUSHED A PF RELIEF FORCE.
IN BAC LIEU PROVINCE, VC/NVA EFFORTS WERE CONCENTRATED ON MAJOR
LOC'S. THERE WAS A MINING INCIDENT AND A SNIPING DURING THE DAY
ON HIGHWAY 4 SW OF GIA RAI DISTRICT TOWN; BOTH INVOLVED MILITARY
VEHICLES. THREE OTHER INCIDENTS OCCURRED AT NIGHT. VC/NVA ACTIVITY
HAS ALSO MADE ALL MAJOR WATXWAYS UNSAFE FOR TRAVEL, EXCEPT THE
BAC LIEU - CA MAO GRAND CANAL WHICH PARALLELS HIGHWAY 4.
ACTIVITY IN CHUONG THIEN PROVINCE WAS WIDELY SCATTERED AND OF LITTLE
CONSEQUENCE. AN XUYEN PROVINCE WAS VERY ACTIVE WITH ABF'S ACCOUNTING
FOR MOST INCIDENTS THE LAST GVN OB IN DAN DOI (D) SOUTH OF THE
DISTRICT TOWN WAS THOI BINH (D), ONE ON THE ONG DOC RIVER, AND
ONE ON ROUTE 12 SIX KM SOUTH OF CA MAO WERE ALSO ABANDONED.
TWO OTHER OB'S JUST SOUTH OF CA MAO WERE UNDER HEAVY
MORTAR FIRE FOR SEVERAL DAYS, AND SECTOR MOVED IN PART
OF A BATTALION OF THE 32ND REGIMENT FROM THOI BINH (D) TO RELIEVE
THE PRESSURE. ONE ARMED VNAF HELICOPTER WAS DOWNED BY AA MACHINE
GUN FIRE IN HAI YEU (D) WHILE SUPPORTING A MEDEVAC MISSION.
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